

JAMES F. LEYS  
BOX 548, 202 COUNTRY STREET  
ALMONTE, ONTARIO, K0A 1A0

31 Jan 79

Dear Bess and Bob,

We thank you for the news of yourselves, and hope you are coming along well again. It is a big disappointment for us not to have seen you in the now nearing two years since that really remarkable meeting in Edinburgh when you both displayed remarkable interest and determination. We had so often gone to Oakville and thence to see you at some point in the winters but we did not make it last winter and this winter has found us even avoiding trips into Ottawa time after time in unpredictable weather. Even so, I hope we can make it to see you both and the Fabians before too long.

We wonder what happened to Stanley Cameron and the proposed film.

Tam Burge, the blinded captain of the Canadian Scottish Regt, asks after you. Sir Fitzroy Maclean, author of "Eastern Approaches" who with his wife were at the Edinburgh Service and Luncheon, was the speaker at the St. A. Soc. & Phila. <sup>on</sup> last St. Andrew's Day, 30 Nov 78, at the Dinner held in the Benj. Hanklin Hotel. The old Bellevue-Stratford, closed for renovations I believe, is probably to be

12.1



reopened under a new name.

Last night Irene and I went to the "official opening" of the <sup>new</sup> R. Tait McKenzie School in Alberta, devoted to retarded children of Lacombe County. The County Board of E. realizes RTM's brilliant procedure in the fulfillment of each individual's potential even when the potential is scarcely recognizable at first glance. At least this is some tangible evidence of RTM's achievements in phys. ed. and in mental balance; and some day we must surely look to find more tangible evidence of his other aspects in phys. ed. and further medicine displayed on or near the Mill.

The new curator at the Mill is a young woman, Dianna Carlisle (married - separated) who commutes from Ottawa. Neat, very agreeable personality; has taught school and been a guide at Upper Canada Village. She has run in several marathons and always finishes the 26 miles plus; the latest being in the Niagara-Buffalo region late last summer or fall.

The U. of Tennessee (Knoxville) on May 3-4 1979 will hold the R. Tait McKenzie Symposium on Sport. That is where much of the Wolfe collection of RTM's athletic sculpture is on view. Gradually the complications of RTM's versatility will be resolved.

Irene joins in sending our love,

Jamie



6416 Clare Crescent  
Niagara Falls, Ontario.

March 21st 1979

Mr John Allen  
Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear John;

It was most startling to find that I had been talking to your grandfather's great grandson Jim, when I telephoned your office while in Toronto on my way to Hawaii last month.

As you know, I used to pick up your grandfather Thomas and drive him to his office when I saw him waiting for a bus at Killbarrny and Oriole Parkway. He was then losing his sight, but always recognized my voice, calling me by name as he got in the car. Tom and Lulu were long lasting friends of my mother and grandmother. In fact he presented "The Secret Garden" to me as a child. It became my favourite book. I was also glad to hear of Henrietta, although I had forgotten her married name and address. She would know me as Bessie Pitt, cousin of the Bentrums and Bradshaws.

It was part interest in the Allen family, and part need of advice regarding a true story I had just finished writing, that prompted my phone call to you. My former writing had been confined to business areas, and only when time permitted following a hospital illness, did I decide to write "The Strange Chronicle" of events in connection with the power and influence of my cousin Dr R. Tait McKenzie, now a world famous sculptor, medical doctor and writer etc who died in 1938. I know of four books about his sculpture, but mine is the first book about him as a person. Three years ago there was a T.V. special about him called "The Man of Kintail".

My letter and reply of the Canada Council which is enclosed, will provide further details on my procedure to date. My manuscript is self explanatory. It was most kind of you to offer to read it. It is such an odd story, it just does not fit into any specific category.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the manuscript would be greatly appreciated, and whether to leave it on the shelf or pursue it further. My age of nearly seventy-five years, may not provide too much time for lengthy re-writes, although my health is now very good. I enjoy life, travel and people minus any generation gap, so consider myself most fortunate.

We leave this week for ten days in Charleston, and trust I may be favoured with a reply from you at your earliest convenience following my return.

Yours very sincerely,

Elizabeth Pitt Barron  
(Mrs Robert A. Barron)



JAMES F. LEYS  
BOX 548, 202 COUNTRY STREET  
ALMONTE, ONTARIO, K0A 1A0

14 April '79

Dear Bess and Bob

Aloha! Time has flown faster than usual. It is very good of you to send the script and illustrations of the Strange Chronicle, with a charming revelation of Bess's own high points. I am not quite clear if you want the papers back now, or would allow them to remain with the rest of our "Archives" on RTM and the Mill.

If you do publish, there are a few passages on which you might care to accept some suggestions and amendments. Irene and I confidently expected to get to the Grahams' home in Oakville and thus allow us to get down to you for a talk on your good work in general terms and in some detail, but plans got astray somewhat so we will probably ~~not~~ get to you until the summer, as meanwhile Irene goes to her family in Vancouver and perhaps I will go there part of the time in May.

So - congratulations on a spirited bit of



writing with the great effect that it comes  
from the heart. The influence of RTM is  
abiding, and it is from tributes like yours  
that bring him into focus in our own time,  
and from time to time, so that when all  
the contemporary rubbish is brushed away  
in time to come he will be seen as a  
Master!

At the moment there is a  
local realization (Almonte and District, Ramsay  
Tansley etc) that RTM is the top of their  
heritage but, understandably, contemporary  
events elbow their way to the front of the  
stage. It is inevitable that he will  
once again be our leader in positive medicine,  
all-round fitness, and wholesome art. We  
thank you for insights into his life and  
yours.

With our love to you both,

As Ever  
Jamie

This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Unveiling of  
the Cross of Sacrifice at the British Plot at  
Northwood Cemetery Philadelphia. The British  
Officers Club and others will have a Mark Post  
at the site on - I believe - 29 April or 3 June '79. 14.2



# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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File: 7-CA3/71-8

May 12, 1980

Mrs. Elizabeth Barron,  
6416 Claire Crescent,  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
L2G 2F2

Dear Mrs. Barron:

This year's R. Tait McKenzie Day will be held on Saturday, May 24. The format is much the same as last year with the ceremony beginning at 3:00 P.M. and a reception following.

Ms. Rebecca Sisler, Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts will be speaking and presenting McKenzie's sculpture, "The Ice Bird" for long term loan to the Museum.

You are welcome to attend and will always be an honoured guest.

Sincerely,

*H. Lancaster*

DC/h1

*for* Dianna Carlisle,  
Education Co-ordinator.

15.1



Box 548  
Almonte Ont  
K0A 1A0  
22 Dec 82

Dear Bess,

The Tait McKenzie Association  
came to life legally on 21 Dec  
1982, and the first signature  
of the Secretary Treasurer is on  
your receipt herewith. Thank  
you very much.

We wish you and Bob  
all the best and hope  
to see you when the  
weather improves.

As Ever

Jamie



James F. Leys  
Box 548, 202 Country Street  
Almonte, Ontario  
K0A 1A0

✓ Oct 85

Dear Elizabeth,

Irene and I and scores of others around here were delighted when you and Louise came for the great day at "The Volunteer" and Christer in June, and thrilled to find you here again in September 1985.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June 1986 and 1987 are other important days when we hope you will come again, and again in between.

Thank you ever so much for the numerous good photos you have kindly sent. We have been to various points in New England and lately returned to find a number of things to attend to.

Herewith is an official receipt for \$100<sup>00</sup> from our Association received through the staff at the Mill. — Thank you.

Our love to you —  
most definitely  
As Ever — Jamie



Col. Elliott Lord  
Provost. Dec

N City Chamber  
Edinburgh

C9/ Teleran  
Cable

Order receipt

proceeding

message

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